

Arctic District Office Meeting Notes
Tuesday, December 5, 2017

ALT/DLT:

- Talk on Anaktuvuk Pass fire tomorrow (Wed.) 10-12 Kobuk Room by Eric Miller and Ben Jones
- Charge Card training due by Jan. 15 – send certificates to Tammy Busch (Arctic - cc Sarah)

Arctic Business:

- Shelly sent email re: Arctic has new new wildlife biologist Tim Vosburgh. Thanks to hiring panel. Vosburgh is currently in Lander, Wyoming and has extensive experience with O&G and terrestrial mammals (previously worked with Rocky Boy Indian Reservation Agency as wildlife biologist for 6 years). Looks like he'll be actually in office first week of March but we'll try to get him on the books earlier.
- FOIA request- cautious read of request means we should only turn over the admin record and not interoffice email and notes. Shelly has a call in to Heidi to confirm/get clarification.
- Sarah submitted PR for fuel for Ikpihpuk and will follow up on that

Arctic Round Robin

Shelly Jones

- 11 AM Budget meeting today
- Tomorrow, BST subgroup on fixed costs was supposed to meet but looks like it will be rescheduled
- Thursday, several meetings:
 - Strategy team at 10 AM
 - 11 AM Nicole on Regional Mitigation Strategy and how to finalize (contractor Argonne Lab sent a draft)
 - 2 PM GMT2 check in with Stephanie
- Major project status: lot of briefings between SO and DOI interim steps
 1. 1002 area of ANWR – legislation for Arctic Office to develop plan for leasing
 - Several interagency meetings, which laws apply, who has authority.
 - Yesterday Donna and Shelly participated in meeting, Bud Cribley with FWS was on call, to identify data gaps for authorizations
 - FWS trying to lay out phases of development (exploration first)
 - Rob Brumbaugh is due to give a presentation: BLM has been told that direction was leasing plan ASAP using existing information.
 - Have confirmed that FLPMA does not apply, the lands have not been turned over fee simple to BLM. USFWS CCP applies.
 - USFWS tasked themselves with identifying POCs.
 - At some point an Assistant Secretary level Project Coordinator may be appointed.

- Serena is compiling a series of questions for the Department.
 - Mineral Leasing Act and NEPA apply but not sure what else. Need to develop a schedule for the leasing. Serena is looking at docs from the NE NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan to develop a budget and timeline.
 - Looks like Leasing Plan will tier off their CCP.
 - Will be done under contract
2. Willow Master Development Plan.
 - Will be contracted and ID team will review.
 - ID team has been asked to weigh in on the MNAD
 - Stephanie is tasked with Project Lead for Willow (along with GMT2)
 - CPAI will use this winter exploration data to inform application
 - MNAD – include any comments on maps
 3. NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan
 - Ted had earlier said rewriting was the plan but now that has changed – someone suggested merging it with the plan for the 1002 but that was rejected
 - Now seems that perhaps an alternative from the 2013 Integrated Activity Plan could be considered
 4. GMT2
 - Waiting for confirmation on surnaming in DC, has not been uploaded but that will determine schedule for public meetings
- Other ongoing permits: gravel sale, Olgoonik P&A Legacy Wells, FOIA
 - Defensive Driving due by the end of the January (required every 3 years)
 - Need to follow up with Sarah Longan re: NSSI talk with the Arctic Office – she was at interagency meeting with FWS, offered to host a state of the science workshop to determine the data gaps (but this is not feasible within the one week deadline)

Sarah LaMarr

- Budget meeting 11 today
- Meeting 1-3 this afternoon on credit cards
- Just back in the office, getting caught up
- UIC gravel sale
 - Will work with Shelly and Joe, determine level of NEPA and outstanding questions
 - Got shape files from UIC for the road, etc.

Lonnie Bryant

- In realty/lands training for 5 weeks

Deb Nigro:

- Here all week
- Working on NEPA for authorizations that require consultation (just got revised Polar Bear Plan), ok now for fuel haul

- Biological Assessment for GMT2

Joe Keeney

- Here all week
- Sent GMT2 stuff to SHIPO
- Then shifting back to SHIPO report and artifacts reports from last summer for the AK Anthropology Conference
- Last Thursday mobile GIS user group meeting - since the GIS meeting in December there is attention to making sure everybody is getting their GIS needs met

Tori Leshuk

- Here all week
- Policy time – time to get your trainings up to date

Donna Wixon

- Retirement Training tomorrow
- North Slope Borough winter trail system application becoming a big thing
 - They sent application but it was deficient; we need info from the contractor – now that appears to be 4 contractors (UIC, OC, Lynden, Eskimos Inc.) and have not heard from UIC or OC on any of this. Eskimos Inc. (working with ASRC) and Lynden have called (North Slope Borough told them to give us the permit) – each contractor needs a permit (at this point they need more specific routes on a map). Need to work with Central Yukon because a portion will be from the Dalton to AKP.

Matt Whitman

- Here all week
- Catching up on emails and training

Stacey Fritz

- Here all week except out Friday afternoon after 2:30 for family medical
- Working on Greater Mooses Tooth 1 Compensatory Mitigation Implementation Plan Phase II with Nuiqsut Trilateral
- NEPA, aviation training,

Terra Meares

- Here all week
- Some Legacy Wells have known huge refrigeration systems with diesel in them buried underground to keep tundra from thawing – has found some more that have that – that will change their risk status and how much it will cost to remediate them.
- Will send maps addressing confusion of coordinates for Simpson test wells to Nicole
- Plan of Operations and state files to go through

- Collecting things to create folders, identify boundaries, linked features

Melody

- Here tomorrow and part of the day Thursday then out, out all next week, back on the 22cd
- Working on NEPA and almost done going through and organizing Susan's electronic files

Richard Kemnitz

- In Panama

Stephanie Rice

- GMT2: still no approval to publish the NOA in the Fed. Register
 - Right now critical period for ID team is last half of March to end of April – Stephanie will send out latest Draft to ROD schedule – please give her an idea of your availability during that time
 - Optimistic it will be uploaded this week
 - Publication date would be Jan. 19 so that would shift public meeting schedule week of Feb 5 – 12
 - Fairbanks Monday, Utqiagvik Tuesday, Nuiqsut Wednesday
 - Following week: Atkasuk and AKP
- Willow
 - Working now to determine what is needed to get to an NOI and what would be involved
 - Made a recommendation to contract out the entire EIS and Arctic would review
 - Other recommendation was to publish preliminary draft alternatives with the NOI
 - If we go this way would need ConocoPhillips to get us MNAD by end of March with project alternatives
 - NOI in July or August but much depends on when ConocoPhillips gets the information they need to pin down pad locations
 - ConocoPhillips has HDR working on an MNAD now
 - Matt: if we contract out an EIS for the resource specialist sections for Fish and Water it takes way longer than to write it myself because the contractor simply copies sections I've written for other EISs and requires Matt to rewrite the entire thing – much longer. Applies to all EIS-level documents.
 - Draft schedule: decision about contracting by the end of this month
 - Secretarial Order that restricts timeframe and page length will apply so any ideas about how that can be done legally (unclear whether appendices count toward page length).
 - Solicitor re: time limits – we cannot adhere to an arbitrary schedule
 - How does consultation fit in to the time frame – Sec. Order did say there may be extenuating circumstances (e.g. when partners/cooperating agencies cannot meet the schedule)

Cindy Hamfler

- Back in the office
- Trying to catch up on emails
- Polar bear data from Todd Atwood
- Will be working on subsurface map 1002 area of ANWR